

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-27 (cancelled).

Claim 28 (new): A riding lawn mower comprising:

- an engine;
- a vertical output shaft of said engine;
- left and right driving wheels;
- a first stepless transmission for rotating said left and right driving wheels in the same forward or backward direction;
- a vertical first input shaft of said first stepless transmission;
- a second stepless transmission for differentially rotating said left and right driving wheels; and
- a vertical second input shaft of said second stepless transmission.

Claim 29 (new): The riding mower as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

- a hydrostatic transmission serving as at least one of said first and second stepless transmissions.

Claim 30 (new): The riding mower as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

- a first pulley on said output shaft of said engine;
- a second pulley on said first input shaft;
- a third pulley on said second input shaft; and

a single belt looped over said first, second and third pulleys, wherein said first, second and third pulleys are disposed on the same plane.

Claim 31 (new): The riding mower as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

- a mower device;
- a vertical third input shaft of said mower device;
- a first pulley on said output shaft of said engine;
- a second pulley on said input shaft of said mower device; and
- a belt looped over said first and second pulleys.

Claim 32 (new): The riding mower as set forth in claim 4, further comprising:

- a third pulley on said output shaft of said engine;
- a fourth pulley on said first input shaft;
- a fifth pulley on said second input shaft;
- a belt looped over said third, fourth and fifth pulleys, wherein said third input shaft is driven by said engine through either said first or second input shaft.